

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 13-16 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claim 1 is amended; and no claims are canceled or added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 is rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting; and Claims 1-3 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,808,352 to Seita in view of U.S. Publication 2003/0141217 to Park.

With respect to the double patenting rejection over copending application 10/706,915, Claim 1 is amended by the present amendment. Withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach or suggest that an outer periphery of a door member is larger than a periphery of said first opening to cover a whole part of said first opening from the inside of said chamber, and when said door member closes said first opening to open or close the access opening and said first opening from an inside of said chamber, a first gap is formed between the wall of the chamber and an larger area of said door in which the outer periphery of said door is larger than the periphery of said first opening, and in said first gap, a flow rate of gas flowing from the chamber from an inside of the chamber to an outside of the chamber through said first gap is substantially equal to a flow rate of gas flowing out from a second gap formed between the clean box and an outer surface of the wall of the chamber, as claimed in Claim 1.

The outstanding Office Action asserts on page 4 that "Seita fails to teach the door body comprising projections." However, Applicants submit that the claimed invention does

not recite “projections.” Further, the Office Action does not specifically direct Applicants attention to a disclosure in the applied art for claim features such as “a gap” and “flow rate.” It is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not disclose or suggest these features. In particular, Seita discusses an apparatus having a chamber, a first opening to access an inside of a clean box storing a wafer and a door 32 to hold a lid 2 of the clean box. Seita, however, fails to disclose that an outer periphery of said door member is larger than a periphery of said first opening. In Seita, the door member is smaller than the opening of the chamber. Therefore, Seita also fails to disclose that when said door member closes said first opening to open or close the access opening and said first opening from an inside of said chamber, a first gap is formed between the wall of the chamber and an larger area of said door in which the outer periphery of said door is larger than the periphery of said first opening. Please see at least Figs. 6, 9 and 10A to 10D of Seita.

Seita also fails to disclose that in said first gap, a flow rate of gas flowing from the chamber from an inside of the chamber to an outside of the chamber through said first gap is substantially equal to a flow rate of gas flowing out from a second gap formed between the clean box and an outer surface of the wall of the chamber.

Furthermore, Park discloses an apparatus having a chamber; a first opening to access an inside of a clean box storing a wafer and a cover 104 for the opening at the front of the container 102. Therefore, Park also fails to disclose that an outer periphery of said door member is larger than a periphery of said first opening. As best shown in Figs. 3 and 6 of Park, the door member does not cover a whole part of said first opening from the inside of said chamber. Therefore, Park also fails to disclose that when said door member closes said first opening to open or close the access opening and said first opening from an inside of said chamber, a first gap is formed between the wall of the chamber and an larger area of said door in which the outer periphery of said door is larger than the periphery of said first

opening. Please see at least Figs. 6A and 6B of Park showing that the door members do not cover the opening. As long as the door member overlaps the opening, it is natural that any gap not be formed between the wall of the chamber and the door member. Therefore, Park also fails to disclose that in said first gap, a flow rate of gas flowing from the chamber from an inside of the chamber to an outside of the chamber through said first gap is substantially equal to a flow rate of gas flowing out from a second gap formed between the clean box and an outer surface of the wall of the chamber.

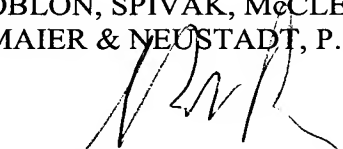
Accordingly, Seita and Park, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose all the features of the claimed invention. Therefore, the present invention is not obvious over Seita in view of Park. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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